

*a*

1. A composition comprising:

- a) a polar solvent; and
- b) a thickening agent in an amount sufficient to impart to the composition a viscosity of at least 1000 centipoise measures at room temperature, the thickening agent comprising a polyacrylamide,

wherein the composition is substantially anhydrous.

2. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising a beneficial agent.

5. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of branched or unbranched polyacrylamides and substituted polyacrylamides.

7. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 0.05% to about 20% by weight of the composition.

8. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

9. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 1% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

11. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity in the range of from about 1000 to about two million centipoise.

12. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity in the range of from about 10,000 cps to about 1,000,000 cps.

13. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent is a polyol.

14. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols.

15. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and glycerine.

16. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising one or more optional ingredients selected from the group consisting of alcohol co-solvents, acetone, propylene carbonates, preservatives, emollients, humectants, anti-inflammatory agents, antioxidants, insect repellents or

skin cooling compounds.

17. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of drug agents, medicaments and vitamins.

18. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, clindomycin, cephalosporins, and derivatives or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

19. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, derivatives of ascorbic acid, retinoic acid, derivatives of retinoic acid and vitamin E.

20. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of methylsalicylate and menthol.

21. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising a detergent.

22. A composition as in claim 21 wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of sodium cocoyl isethionate, acyl glutamate, alphaolefin sulfonates and sarcosynates.

23. A foaming cleanser composition comprising:

a polar solvent;

a thickening agent comprising a polyacrylamide; and

a synthetic detergent, the composition being substantially anhydrous

24. A foaming cleanser composition as in claim 23 further comprising a beneficial agent.

25. A foaming cleanser composition as in claim 23 wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of sodium cocoyl isethionate, alphaolefin sulfonates, sarcosynates and acyl glutamates.

26. A foaming cleanser as in claim 24 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide and salicylic acid.

27. A composition comprising:

a) a polar solvent; and

b) a thickening agent in an amount sufficient to impart to the composition a viscosity of at least 1000 centipoise measures at room temperature, the thickening agent comprising a mixture of polyacrylamide, C<sub>13-14</sub> isoparaffin and Laureth 7, wherein the composition is substantially anhydrous.

28. A composition as in claim 27 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

29. A composition as in claim 27 having a viscosity in the range of from about 1000 to about two million centipoise

30. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent is a polyol.

31. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent is a polyol selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols.

32. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and glycerine.

33. A composition as in claim 27 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more one or more optional ingredients selected the group consisting of alcohol co-solvents, acetone, propylene carbonates, preservatives, emollients, humectants, anti-inflammatory agents, antioxidants, insect repellents or skin cooling compounds.

34. A composition as in claim 27 further comprising a beneficial agent.

35. A composition as in claim 34 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting drug agents, medicaments and vitamins.

36. A composition as in claim 34 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, clindomycin, cephalosporins, and derivatives or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

37. A composition as in claim 34 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, derivatives of ascorbic acid, retinoic acid, derivatives of retinoic acid and vitamin E.

38. A composition as in claim 34 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group consisting of methylsalicylate and menthol.

39. A composition as in claim 27 further comprising a detergent.

40. A composition as in claim 39 wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of sodium cocoyl isethionate, acyl glutamate, alphaolefin sulfonates and sarcosynates.